

**PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

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March 24, 2006, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Wisconsin Medical Society, 330 East Lakeside Street, Madison, Wisconsin

STATE OF WISCONSIN

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2006**

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Ayaz Samadani (Chair); Gary Gilmore (Vice-Chair) (by teleconference); JoAnn Weidmann (Secretary); Bevan Baker (by teleconference); Richard Perry

**Absent Committee Members:** Stephan Hargarten; Julie Willems Van Dijk; Jeanan Yasiri

**Division of Public Health Staff:** Herb Bostrom, Deputy Administrator; Patricia Guhleman; Stacia Jankowski

**Call to Order**

Dr. Ayaz Samadani called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Dr. Gary Gilmore made a motion to approve the minutes for January 20 as written, which was seconded by JoAnn Weidmann. The motion passed unopposed.

**Administration**

*Meeting evaluation status*

Stacia Jankowski reported that completion of meeting evaluations was particularly low for the February 10 meeting, with only three respondents. The Committee discussed options for improving this number, and decided to have the evaluation available both in paper at the meeting and electronically through e-mail. The Committee agreed to have the evaluation form sent to the Council in an easily completed format, including a due date, and followed up with a reminder e-mail prior to the due date. This will remain as a standing agenda item to highlight its importance and to reinforce that the results are being reviewed.

*Membership*

Ms. Jankowski reported that a new roster will be distributed to the Council at the next meeting. This roster will reflect the recent changes in membership and the elected officials for 2006.

**Committee issues**

*Emergency Preparedness Committee*

Bevan Baker reported that the Emergency Preparedness Committee met on March 14 in Wisconsin Dells, with good attendance and participation by its members. He said that a policy recommendation regarding emergency preparedness had been drafted at the meeting, and he plans to present this for the Council's consideration at the April meeting. Mr. Baker noted that the Emergency Preparedness Committee made a conscious decision to focus on policy, not process, in developing the recommendation.

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft recommendation. Dr. Samadani requested that the following clarifications be made:

- What is the target population referred to?
- Does "local and tribal departments" refer to health departments or providers?

Dr. Samadani suggested that once this recommendation has been finalized it be shared with General Wilkening and the Homeland Security Council.

Dr. Gilmore offered to see if invitations could be arranged for Executive Committee members interested in attending a Midwest conference titled, “Enhancing Critical Incidence Preparedness through Public/Private Partnerships” to be held on May 3 and 4. Dr. Samadani expressed interest and Herb Bostrom asked if an invitation could be sent to Sheri Johnson as the State Health Officer.

### ***State Health Plan Committee***

Richard Perry reported that the State Health Plan Committee is now composed of 18 members from across the state. The Committee has been working to develop a strategic plan for the coming year in order to incorporate the many elements of the state health plan. He reported that he is looking to the Council for suggestions, and intends to bring the plan to the Council for approval, and also will bring the Committee’s draft charter to the Council for review and approval.

Mr. Perry reported that key activities of the strategic planning group have included:

- Working on defining the term “disparities” and identifying ways to incorporate efforts to address disparities into each of the state health plan priorities;
- Identifying ways to coordinate with other boards and councils that may affect state health plan priorities; and
- Developing a strategic plan for the coming year.

The Committee plans to hold six meetings that alternate between three hours and five hours in length.

Ms. Weidmann reported that the State Health Plan Committee has expressed concern about how to work with the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Mr. Perry said that he and Mr. Baker are planning to meet to identify overlapping agendas and develop a means of communication, but would like to know if there is any direction from the Council. Dr. Samadani responded that he believes that having the committee chairs meet will help to address the scope of work faced by the two committees, but he expects formal communication between the two committees to occur through the Council meetings.

Mr. Perry also reported that a minority health leadership team and the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) have been discussing the effectiveness of the Council in addressing issues; this led to a broader discussion about raising awareness of the resolutions that the Council passes, particularly when the resolution has a fiscal impact. Herb Bostrom responded that funding is available for those items identified as priorities. He sees the Council’s role as being able to draw attention to and make recommendations about items that should be a priority. Dr. Samadani suggested extending an annual invitation to Secretary Nelson to attend one of the Council’s meetings in which a debate occurs or in which a formal presentation of the annual report is made.

Ms. Weidmann asked how we get the attention of the Legislature, Governor, and Secretary when we make these recommendations. The Executive Committee discussed options for getting the Council’s message into the media and ensuring that recommendations that are made are evidence- or science-based, and will have public support behind them. In order for the Committee to be effective in distributing its message, it will need to be proactive. Dr. Samadani offered to take the lead in making a few connections to the media and serve as the primary media contact for the Council.

### **Discussion Items**

#### ***Medical liability discussion***

Dr. Samadani reported that with the signing of Assembly Bill 1073, the issue of medical liability caps is no longer relevant. It remains an item on the agenda so that a status report can be provided.

#### ***Expected legislation regarding public health***

Dr. Samadani asked if staff could track and send information to Council members on bills as they are proposed. Mr. Bostrom agreed to provide what he can in terms of the information he receives on bills that are relevant to the Department. He noted that this may not track all the bills relevant to the Council, because

the information he currently receives is only legislation pertinent to the Department. Ms. Weidmann suggested that the Council may want to be included in the Wisconsin Public Health Association legislation listserv, which periodically sends information on emerging issues.

Dr. Samadani asked about Assembly Bill 881, which reorganizes the public health statutes and was approved by the Governor on March 24.

#### ***Nutrition programs and promoting health practices in schools***

Dr. Samadani recommended that the issue of nutrition programs and promoting health practices be reviewed and recommendations developed. Mr. Bostrom reported that a workgroup has developed a Wisconsin Nutrition and Physical Activity State Plan, which could be used to more narrowly focus the recommendations. Mr. Perry offered to take this issue to the State Health Plan Committee for review.

#### ***Recommending exercise in the workplace***

Dr. Samadani also raised the issue of recommending exercise in the workplace as something the Council should consider as an item to bring to the attention of the media. Dr. Gilmore suggested the Wisconsin Walks program could be used as a prototype that the Council could promote.

#### **Council Agenda**

The following additions were made to the April 7 agenda:

- The Emergency Preparedness Committee recommendation as an action item.
- Review and approval of the State Health Plan Committee Charter.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for May 19, 2006, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Wisconsin Medical Society, 330 East Lakeside Street, Madison.

#### **Adjournment**

Dr. Samadani adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Recorded by Stacia Jankowski  
Bureau of Health Information and Policy